

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/671,477

Applicant(s)

ONO ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Terry L Englund

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Sep 29, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 September 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/284,207.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 8, line 8: added --first-- prior to "comparator";

line 10: changed "a first" to --the first--;

line 11: changed "a second" to --the second--; and

Claim 12, line 4: added --logical-- prior to "threshold".

All four changes address/correct minor oversights. For example, "the comparator" on line 8 has been amended to provide consistent labeling (e.g. see "a first comparator" on line 7); and the conductivity types on lines 10 and 11 now clearly refer back to previous descriptions of the first/second conductivity types (e.g. see lines 2 and 3). Claim 12 was amended to provide consistent labeling (e.g. see "second logical threshold voltage" on lines 5-6 of claim 11). None of these changes affect the scope of the claims.

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT/TD/DRAWINGS

The amendment, terminal disclaimer (TD), and drawings submitted on Sep 29, 2004 were reviewed and considered with the following results:

The drawings overcame the objections described in the previous Office Action, and they have now been withdrawn.

The amended changes to the title, abstract, and disclosure overcame their respective objections. Therefore, those objections have also been withdrawn.

The amended claims overcame most of their objections described in the previous Office Action. However, the objections to lines 10 and 11 of claim 8 were inadvertently overlooked. Also, one new objection is associated with an amended change within claim 8, and another objection (previously overlooked by the examiner) was found in claim 12. These objections were addressed/corrected by the Examiner's Amendment described above. Therefore, the previous Office Action's objections of claims 2-3, 6, and 8-14 have now been withdrawn.

The amended claims also overcame all of the rejections of claims 2-5, and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as described in the previous Office Action. Those rejections have all been withdrawn.

The TD was approved and entered. It overcame the double patenting rejections of claims 1-14 with respect to U.S. Patent 6,653,890. Therefore, those rejections have all been withdrawn.

There is no known objection or rejection remaining within the present application.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art references reviewed and considered shows or discloses the semiconductor integrated device as recited within independent apparatus claim 1, or the output method as recited within independent method claim 8. More specifically, none of the references shows/ discloses the first/second well bias voltages as recited within claims 1 (upon which claims 2-7 depend) and 8 (upon which claims 9-14 depend), wherein the first well bias voltage is controlled by the first control signal, and the second well bias voltage is controlled by the second control signal that is adjusted by the difference signal. Since there is no motivation to modify or

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combine any prior art reference(s) to ensure those limitations are met, the claims are deemed patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

Claims 1-14 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication, or previous communications, from the examiner should be directed to Terry L. Englund whose telephone number is (571) 272-1743. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (571) 272-1740.

The new central official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Terry L. Englund

12 October 2004